



This year, International Women’s Week focuses on the theme of family. Who makes up family? Do we need it? If so, why? What kinds of families exist and does everyone get an equal chance to make a family? Does everyone get an equal chance to parent and protect?

This theme will allow us to explore some of the central preoccupations in contemporary society. We will hear from speakers from the medical field, from researchers and advocates, as well as from students, past and present. Seventeen different events are planned throughout the week, which will help us to think through, among other things, the ways in which what we might

consider private is often political, particularly for Black and Indigenous communities. We will have a chance to hear about government policies that have historically hindered the possibility for different groups to freely pursue their desire to make a family for themselves. We will hear from parents, including Vanier faculty who will talk to us about what parenting means to them. And we will hear from students who will tell us about how they navigate their experiences of family.

HOW TO ATTEND

Events are open to the public. Most of the events will be taking place in person, at Vanier College, in the Auditorium (A-103). Two panels will be held remotely but will still be projected in the auditorium. The entire week-



SCAN ME

long program will be streamed via Zoom Webinar and can be attended remotely. Here is the Zoom webinar link (copy and paste into your browser): shorturl.at/dsNU2

We acknowledge that the place in which we work and study is situated within the traditional unceded lands of the Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) peoples, part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. There is also a strong historic presence of Anishinaabe peoples in what is now known as the Greater Montreal area. Tio’tia:ke, or Montreal, has also long been, and continues to be, a gathering place for many First Peoples from all directions. We honour and thank the traditional custodians of this land and strive to work for the success of future generations.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

8:30 – 10:00 RACISM AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH: A CONVERSATION WITH STUDENTS IN HEALTHCARE

Nutrition and Nursing students, **Fatoumata Bintou Baldé, Hawa Diallo & Adama Diallo** lead the conversation on the various ways racism has an impact on the health of Black people and their children. From medical biases to food insecurity, the danger of “not seeing color” remains a flaw in the medical field, making racism a public health issue.

10:00 – 12:00 TREATING INDIGENOUS FAMILIES: THE MANY FACES OF MEDICAL COLONIALISM

Ph.D candidate and researcher **Patricia Bouchard** will be discussing the forced sterilization of Indigenous women. She will guide us in exploring the history, the context, the ideology, the practices, and the many repercussions of this important violation of human rights. How have these policies played out across the provinces and what possibilities, both legally and otherwise, currently exist for the recognition of and reparations to the Indigenous women who have come forward recently in Canada. What does it mean for our institutions, our standards of care for Indigenous communities, as well as the medical establishment? She is joined by pediatric emergency physician and author of the award-winning book *Fighting for a Hand*

to Hold, **Samir Shaheen-Hussain** has been working with Indigenous communities for many years and who will speak with us about the anti-Indigenous systemic racism in Canadian health care, medical violence inflicted upon Indigenous children, and the role of the medical establishment's role in colonial genocide.

2:30 -4:00 FAIRE DISSIDENCE : RECRÉER LA NOTION DE FAMILLE POLITIQUE | SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BELL HOOKS (BILINGUAL)

Dans les formes de familles dites choisies, les familles politiques occupent une place particulière, à la fois comme espaces d'émancipation, de compréhension, de mises en mouvement mais aussi de violence, d'exclusion et d'affrontement. L'oeuvre de bell hooks nous offre des outils et des pistes de réflexions précieuses pour re-créeer la notion de famille politique. Un travail d'autant plus urgent, car l'ombre de l'ethno-nationalisme et du capitalisme de surveillance se propage et avec lui les proposition libérale déguisées en radicalité. Avec la participation de **Dr. Nathalie Batrville** and **Fania Noël**.

4:00-6:00 HERE AND THERE: WRITING (ARAB) FAMILY

Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch is a poet living in Tio'tia:ke. Their book, *knot body* (2020), published by Metatron Press, was shortlisted for the QWF Concordia First Book Award, and their second book, *The Good Arabs*, was published by Metonymy Press in September 2021. They are an editor at smoke and mold and the non-fiction editor at The Puritan. They will be in conversation with poet **Emné Nasereddine** whose poetry is inspired by her experience of immigration, borders and mourning, the life of Lebanese women, and the traditions and rites she discovered in South Lebanon. *La Danse du figuier* is her first book (*Mémoire d'encrier*, 2021). She lives in Montreal.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

1:00 - 2:30 COFFEE WITH MY MA

Kaniehtiio 'Tiio' Horn is a Kanienkehaka actress from Kahnawake, a reserve outside of Montreal. She starred as Mari in the National Geographic series *BARSKINS*, based on the 2016 bestselling novel of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx, and

currently appears as Tanis in the critically acclaimed comedy series, *LETTERKENNY*, created by fellow Canadian Jacob Tierney. Tiio hosts the podcast *COFFEE WITH MY MA*, sharing the adventures and experiences of her activist mother, Kahentinetha; as well as the CBC podcast *TELLING OUR TWISTED HISTORIES*, a series that reclaims Indigenous history by exploring words whose meanings have been twisted by centuries of colonization.

2:30-4:00 BUILDING FAMILIES THROUGH SURROGACY IN CANADA

Surrogacy – where one person bears a child for another individual or couple – has become an increasingly common means of family building in Canada. In her presentation, **Prof. Stefanie Carsley** will discuss how and why Canadians are engaging in surrogacy. She will explore some of the concerns that have been raised about surrogacy arrangements as well as debates about how Canadian lawmakers should respond to surrogacy

4:00 – 6:00 PARENTING WHILE DISABLED

When we think of disability, what comes to mind first? A lot of the time we think of limitations instead of possibilities. In this talk, **Kelly Bron Johnson** shares her insight into the challenges and the strengths of what it is like to be a disabled parent. She hopes to help you see disability in a different way and inspire you to not give up your dreams of doing whatever it is you want to do, even if there are barriers in the way. **Kelly Bron Johnson** is an Autistic and Hard of Hearing self-advocate, keynote speaker, author, and founder of Completely Inclusive and the Autistic Entrepreneurs Network. As a mixed-race Black, non-binary person, Kelly brings her intersectional identity into all her work and aims to break down the stigmas and systemic barriers that exist in society to make the path easier for others. She is a Certified Workplace Psychological Health and Safety Advisor, and currently working towards a Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice from Vermont Law School.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

10:30 — 12:00 MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN (34 MINS)

Mary Two-Axe Earley fought for more than two decades to challenge sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in Canada's Indian Act and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement. Co-founder and vicepresident of Indian Rights for Indian Women (IRIW), she was instrumental in the adoption of Bill C-31 (1985), the first amendment to address sex discrimination under the Indian Act, restoring basic human rights to thousands of First Nations women and children across Canada. Mary's advocacy continues to inspire women in a movement to demand full sex equality for First Nations women and their children.

Using never-before-seen archival footage and audio recordings, Mohawk filmmaker **Courtney Montour** engages in a deeply personal conversation with the late Mohawk woman who challenged sexist and genocidal government policies that stripped First Nations women and children of their Indian status when they married non-Indian men. (Not available to stream.)

10:30 LET'S GET MOVING! A DANCE WORKSHOP WITH JOSEPH AUDAIN (HOSTED BY NATALIE CARLINO, SOCIOLOGY)

We will be starting the workshop with some basic warm-ups and exercises followed by an electric Hip Hop routine. Lots of laughs and interactions will be had! And we'll definitely be sweating!

Joseph Audain has been dancing for 23 years and has taught dance for the past 10 years. His repertoire of dance styles includes hip hop, classical ballet, contemporary, and jazz. Joseph gave an awesome hip hop workshop during International Women's Week last year via Zoom but is very excited to teach in person this year!

12:00 — 1:30 *CONVICTION* (1H18 MINS)

This documentary by **Nance Ackerman** et al. envisions alternatives to prison through the eyes of women behind bars and those fighting on the front lines of the decarceration movement. (Not available to stream.)

1:30 — 3:00 THE LGBT+ FAMILY COALITION: A SHORT HISTORY OF PARENTAL RIGHTS IN QUÉBEC

In this talk **Mona Greenbaum**, Executive director of the LGBT+ Family Coalition will speak about LGBTQ+ parenting and how the legal and social recognition of these families has evolved over the past 25 years.

4:00 -6:00 LGBT2QNBIA+ PARENTS SPEAK

Vanier teachers **Alan Wong** (English) and **Jacky Vallée** (Anthropology) will share their perspectives and experiences of parenting as members of the LGBT2QNBIA+ community. These experiences are sometimes challenging, sometimes joyful, and often hilarious!

THURSDAY MARCH 10

10:00 — 11:30 WHAT IS FAMILY?

For current Vanier student **Myriam Ledjjar**, family is a place of belonging and security. During her presentation, she will focus on the impact of immigration, both positive and negative on inter-generational family dynamics. She will share with us what having a successful family means to her. For fellow student **Rena Kikelomo Atandah**, family means mutual respect for each others' differences. During her talk, she will share how her parents' differing religious and cultural beliefs have shaped her and led to her "own" culture, and how that reality does not always correspond to how others, in Canada, perceive her. Rena also hopes to explore what it has meant to be the child of immigrant parents.

1:00 - 2:30 ARE YOU MY MOTHER? PARENTAGE IN A NON-CONJUGAL FAMILY

In November of 2016, an Ontario court made Canadian legal history when it recognized the parentage of a non-biological mother who was not and had never been in a conjugal relationship with her son's other mother. The two "co-mamas" are friends (and now family) but are neither spouses nor common law partners (or ex-partners) but have successfully collaborated in raising their son who has multiple and complex disabilities. News reports of the legal recognition of this non-conjugal parental pair generated a remarkable response both in Canada and around the world, suggesting a public readiness

to imagine new forms of parenting that transcend the traditional model of “love-marriage-baby carriage”. Legal scholar and “co-mama” **Natasha Bakht’s** presentation will consider whether it is time to remove conjugality as a criterion for co-parental relationships in Canadian family law. The hegemony of the traditional nuclear family is no longer tenable in the 21st century and indeed has never been the norm among many socio-cultural groups. Moreover, the state has an obligation to support any form of parental relationship that serves the best interests of children, particularly where those children have special needs that require extraordinary investments in time, money, and care.

2:30-4:00 THROAT SINGING FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER: INDIGENOUS CULTURE AS INTER-GENERATIONAL HEALING
Nina Segalowitz (Inuvialuit and Dine from Fort Smith NWT) a well-known artist and community leader will speak to us about her artistic journey and what it has meant to share this journey with her daughter.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

10:00 - 11:30 HOW DOES HISTORY AND OUR STORIES IMPACT OUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.

What’s your story? What have you heard about your birth? Who told you about sex and sexuality? How do you view the health care system and the professionals working within that system? Let’s talk about what was passed down from one generation to the other and how it affects us positively or not. Let’s examine how all the answers to these questions can shape one’s life trajectory when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health. What are your needs, how are they met, what are some available resources, what’s missing for you to feel safe, to feel seen and heard and to be respected in your choices?

Social entrepreneur, consultant, speaker, birth, and perinatal worker **Ariane K. Métellus** has designed this interactive workshop to start a conversation that will hopefully continue beyond the school walls and spark interest around sexual and reproductive health, obstetrical and gynecological violence, reproductive justice and more.

1:00 - 2:30 SURVIVING THE SIXTIES SCOOP

Sixties Scoop Survivor **Michelle Wouters** will speak to us about the impact on her life and more broadly within Indigenous communities across Turtle Island of the policies which have come to be known as the Sixties Scoop. During this period Indigenous children were systematically removed from their families and placed with non-Indigenous and mostly white families.

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Leila Bdeir

International Women’s Week Coordinator

Women’s and Gender Studies

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